(a) the criteria laid down for allocation of natural gas by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL);

(b) whether GAIL has not been allocating gas to the new applicants for the last few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve availability of gas in the country and ensure its allocation to all the eligible applicants; and

(e) whether GAIL has formulated any long term policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Natural gas is allocated by the Government. These allocations are based generally on the Imputed Eonomic Value of gas use subject to preference being given to the power and fertiliser sector.

(b) and (c) Since the gas projected to be available was mostly allocated by 1990, very little gas was allocated thereafter. Allocations made recently include 1.4 MMSCMD to Mathura Refinery, 0.6 MMSCMD to industrial units around Agra and gas from isolated pools in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(d) and (e) The availability of gas from domestic sources is being increased by development of new fields and additional development of some existing fields. The Government is also examining the feasibility of importing natural gas LNG.

Food Processing Projects in Bihar

251. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Food Processing Projects sanctioned in the State of Bihar during 1994-95 and also proposed to be sanctioned during 1995-96;

(b) the employment generation capacity of these projects in terms of man-days; and

(c) the export capacity of these food processing projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) During 1994-95 and 1995-96, two proposals have been approved for setting up of 100% Export Oriented units for manufacture of fruit juice concentrate in the State of Bihar. Apart from these 7 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda have also been filed during the same period for setting up of various Food Processing Units in the State of Bihar. As per available information, the proposed direct employment generation in these projects would be approximately 622 persons and the targeted exports during the first 5 years would be Rs. 16 crores approximately.

Financial assistance to Food Processing Industries in Andhra Pradesh

252. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided financial assistance under Plan Development Scheme to Food Processing Industries sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the details of other incentives Government propose to give to the entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing industries in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance of about Rs. 260.98 lakhs has been extended under the Plan Scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in respect of proposals received from Andhra Pradesh, covering Fruits & Vegetable Processing sector, Meat & Poultry Processing sector and Fisheries sector, during the last three years.

(c) Various steps taken by the Government to promote food processing industries, inter alia, include declaration of most food processing industries as high priority, delicensing of all food processing industries excepting distillation & brewing of alcoholic beverages, sugar and those items reserved for small scale sector, automatic approval of foreign equity upto 51% in high priority areas and technology agreements, permitting foreign NRI investments, providing fiscal reliefs, etc.

महानगरों में डाक वितरण प्रणाली में तेजी लाना

253. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार देश के महानगरों में अपनी डाक वितरण प्रणाली में तेजी लाने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम): (क) और (ख) पिछले कुछ समय से देश के महानगरों में डाक वितरण प्रणाली में निम्नलिखित ढंग से सुधार किया गया है:—

(i) दिल्ली, मुम्बई, कलकत्ता, मद्रास, हैदराबाद और बेंगलूर से, इनमें से किसी भी शहर के लिए भेजी गई पिन कोड अंकित डाक का, उसे पोस्ट किए जाने वाले दिन से तीसरे कार्य-दिवस के भीतर वितरण के लिए मैट्रो चैनल।

(ii) सभी शहरों और बड़े कस्बों में स्थानीय पत्रों के लिए एक अलग प्रणाली है, जिसका उद्देश्य यह है कि स्थानीय डाक को, पोस्ट किए जाने वाले दिन से, अगले कार्य-दिवस को वितरित किया जाए।

(ग) उपर्युक्त को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Production of Natural Gas from various States

254. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where natural gas has been discovered recently and in 1995-96;

(b) the average reserves of natural gas in these States;

(c) the rate at which natural gas is produced in each of those States; and

(d) the percentage of gas production and utilisation in each of these States during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARTMA): (a) to (d) The names of the States where gas was discovered recently, the recoverable reserves of gas in those State as on 1-4-95, the production and percentage utilisation of gas in such States are shown in the table below:

Name of State	Recoverable Reserves (Million cu. mtrs.)	Production (MMSCMD)	Utilisation (%age)
Andhra Pradesh	29843	1.85	100
Tamil Nadu	4741	0.32	40
Assam	105205	4.43	79.5
Gujarat	88118	7.82	89.1
Arunachal Pradesh	4160	0.09	NIL
Rajasthan	4114	0.03	100